has already been requested to complete the work by target date of completion of December, 1996.

(c) The overall improvement of the Ghat Section of NH-49 will be considered after completion of survey and investigation and subject to availability of funds. However, the road, including Ghat section, is being kept in traffic worthy condition with spot improvements and special repairs to accident prone reaches and bridges and culverts thereon.

(d) There is no proposal to rubberise this section of Natioanl Highway on an experimental basis.

सोशल ऑडिट पैनलों का गठन

2403. **श्री सोमपाल:** क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय के कार्यकरण की समीक्षा करने के लिए सोशल ऑडिट पैनल नियुक्त करने का विचार रखती है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) इन पैनलों की नियुक्त कब से प्रभावी होगी और ये कब से अपना कार्य आरम्भ कर देंगे?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री राजेश पायलट): (क) से (ग) पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय ने मंत्रालय की गतिविधियों की पुनरीक्षा करने तथा उपयुक्त सिफारिशें करने के लिए पहले ही एक सामाजिक लेखा-परीक्षा पैनल का गठन कर दिया है। यह पैनल मंत्रालय के कार्यक्रमों और परियोजनाओं के प्रति सामान्य जागरूकता और समर्थन का मूल्यांकन करेगा तथा आवश्यकता होने पर उपचारी कार्यवाई का सुझाव देगा ताकि इन्हें लोगों की अपेक्षाओं के अनुकूल बनाया जा सके और जन समर्थन एवं प्रतिभागिता जुटाई जा सके। यह पैनल मंत्रालय के लिए एक सलाहकार निकाय के रूप में कार्य करेगा।

Indo-Egypt Bilateral Cooperation

2404. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the subjects discussed with the President of Egypt during the Prime Minister's recent visit to that country; and

(b) the details of agreements signed with that country for bilateral cooperation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) During his visit to Egypt from October 15-16, 1995 Prime Minister discussed with the President of Egypt bilateral and international matters of mutual interest including ways and means to enhance trade and economic cooperation between India and Egypt, cooperation in science and technology, regional issues relating to South Asia and the Middle East new challenges before the international community such as terrorism, reform of the United Nations and the strengthening of the Non-Aligned Movement.

(b) Three agreements were signed during Prime Minister's visit to Egypt; on scientific and technological cooperation, on combating all forms of criminal acts, particularly terrorist, transnational and organised crimes, and on cooperation in the sphere of information. The agreement on cooperation in science and technology includes implementation of joint research and development projects, organisation of and participation in scinentific conferences, workshops, exhibitions etc., mutual use of R&D facilities and scientific equipment, organisation of joint scientific meetings and other forms of cooperation to be mutually agreed upon. The agreement on cooperation in the sphere of information is designed to encourage the dissemination of news and information on each other countries among their citizens through Press, News Agencies and other Information Media so as to reflect the various aspects of the social, economic and cultural life of the two countries. The implementation of this

agreement is expected to take several forms including exchange of information, scientific research books, exchange of press reporters and photographers, experts and trainees and publicity material. The bilateral agreement on combating all forms of criminal acts, particularly terrorists, transnational and organised crimes, will among other things, enable both countries to exchange information, experiences and techniques in combating these problems.

Pager Services in Nagpur and Chandigarh

2405. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD: DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of pager services which are available in Nagpur and Chandigarh;

(b) what is the number of subscribers in Nagpur as on the Ist December, 1995;

(c) what is the cost per unit of pager service and how much is the market price of the service; and

(d) what steps are being taken to make the services cheaper?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Nagpur:—Following companies have been licenced to operate Radio Paging Service in Nagpur:—

(i) Easycall Communication (I) Ltd.

(ii) Weston Pagers Pvt. Ltd.

(iii) Beltron Telecommunications Ltd.

(iv) NICE Ltd.

None of the Paging Operators has yet commenced the service.

Chandigarh:— Following companies have been licensed to operate Radio Paging Service in Chandigarh:—

(i) ABC Communication (I) Ltd.

(ii) Hutchison Max Telecom.

(iii) Modi Telecommunications Ltd.

(iv) Weston Paging Pvt. Ltd.

M/s. Modi Telecommunications Ltd. & M/s Hutchison Max Telecom. have started the service.

(b) No Sir, none of the companies have started the service in Nagpur.

(c) As per the terms of the Licence Agreement, the operator has to install, commission, operate & maintain the Service. The Telecom. Authority has fixed a ceiling trariff of Rs. 150/— per month for the service.

(d) the Telecom. Authority has fixed a ceilling tariff of Rs. 150/—per month for the Service. The licensees can change the subscriber at a lower tariff. Also the Telecom. Authority has licenced a number of operators in a service Area and it is expected that the competition amongst them will bring down the tariff.

Award of Contract to Mazagaon Dock by ONGC

2406. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ONGC has awarded or considering to award a Rs. 261 crore contract for platforms to the Public Sector Mazagaon Dock Ltd. on "nomination basis" without international competitive bidding and evaluating tenders;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are satisfied with the material being used in the same as used worldwide; and

(d) if so, whether Government have paid attention towards its cost and whether the pipes are being imported direct from the company or from Australia which have been rejected by the Australian Oil Company.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE